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Riverway Specific Plan Area Stakeholders Meeting Minutes (AKA USDRIP)

Thursday, March 20, 2008

1. Attendees:

Carl Stiehl, Joe Farace, Hugo Mora, John Thomas, Mark Baker, Deborah Yost, Ed Zielanski, Mark Hinkley, Bob Kiesling, Steve Halfaker, Jim Bates, George Tockstein, Ed Duling, Harold Hilliker, Frank Hilliker, Bruce Robertson and Rick Smith.

2. Updates:

- Carl Stiehl spoke with the Architect for the proposed Office/Warehouse for the Roofing Contractor at the southwest corner of Mast and Riverford this week. The Site Plan for the project should be submitted to DPLU soon.
- There is still interest in the City of San Diego Properties for Redevelopment and a letter to the City from the County stating this interest is currently being reviewed by senior county management and will be sent out soon.
- DPLU is working on finalizing the RFQ for a Redevelopment Consultant to help with Bonding and Financial issues with the Redevelopment Agency.

3. Strategic Planning Session.

- Mark Baker of Lakeside Fire requested that Deborah Yost from Caltrans research what the ultimate buildout goal for 67 is and return to the next meeting with the plan for the major interchanges, these being Mapleview, Wintergardens and Riverford as this will affect future fire service, for example. Other Stakeholders echoed this comment for other projects.
- Ed Zielanski discussed existing and possible future CIP projects in the Riverway Specific Plan Area, including the Riverford Bridge which sounds like it will be an expensive project. Ed also explained why the Riverford Bridge was once on the CIP list and then taken off the list. The existing bridge itself is a relatively new one and does not fall below the threshold for needing to be replaced yet. The expense and the status of the existing bridge when combined do not warrant justification for a new bridge as of yet. However, Ed did mention that DPW CIP does meet with community groups and other

members of the public to determine projects for the area and that the Riverford Bridge could be looked at again as a possible project if the community voices a need for it at these meetings.

Priority Projects

- It was determined in discussion with the Stakeholder Group that the Priority Project at this time should be affordable housing in the Redevelopment Area as no affordable housing has yet been built or established in the Riverway Specific Plan Area. Therefore, the Redevelopment Agency should work towards more affordable housing projects in the Riverway Specific Plan Area. To this end, the Stakeholders mentioned that we should not only continue to try to obtain properties in the Redevelopment Area for Affordable Housing, but we could look at existing housing in the area and try to allow for Affordable Housing in those locations.
- Additional projects that are at the Second level of Priority should be finishing the Trails plans and improvements for the area and the Riverford Road improvements, including the Riverford Bridge.

4. Other

- Mark Hinkley discussed that a better name for the Redevelopment Area other than "USDRIP" or "USDRIC" could be used. Suggestions by the group included the Lakeside River Park Redevelopment Area or Lakeside River Park District. Possibly some entrance flags or art at various locations. Joe Farace mentioned that the Riverway Specific Plan already has provisions for entry signs and such, however we could look into this some more. Bruce Robertson seconded Mark's thoughts about changing the name of the area and mentioned that more beautification of the area would be beneficial, such as signage and landscaping in the median among others. Riverway Specific Plan Area is an existing name we can use. We can not change the name of the USDRIP Redevelopment Plan as the current naming convention exists for tax and legal purposes.
- The Stakeholder Group requested that the list of Redevelopment Projects prepared by DPLU staff be revised to show completed projects as such and priority projects highlighted. Staff will prepare this for the next meeting.
- The Stakeholder Group requested that the Parks Department come to the next meeting to discuss the status of the Trails and their scheduled completion. Specifically, the extension of the trail east from Channel to connect with existing trails further east is an issue and the two crossings of the trail at Riverford and Channel are existing issues that are yet to be completed.

5. Next Meeting – Thursday, April 17